

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 12-22 without prejudice.

Claims 12-22 (Canceled)

Please add the following new claim as follows:

-23. (New) A plate for arresting continuation of a split in a log wherein the split appears as a crack in an end face of such log, said plate comprising:

a strip of material having a pair of oppositely disposed faces;

spaced apart spikes projecting from a first face thereof;

at least one plate pull tab disposed on said a second face opposing said first face and said spaced apart pikes;

said at least one pull tab being of selected length, integral with said plate and operably engageable by a tool disposed adjacent a face of said plate opposite said one face.-